

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00380 151437Z

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 H-02 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /086 W

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O P 151357Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1685

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0380

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES  
OF JULY 13, 1976

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE JULY 13 SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN REP, FRG REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND TARASOV, POLISH REP DABROWA AND GDR REP OESER. BEFORE THE SESSION BEGAN, KHLESTOV CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS BEING REASSIGNED TO MOSCOW AND THAT TARASOV WOULD BE THE NEW HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION.

2. THE SESSION WAS UNEVENTFUL. WESTERN REPS MADE THE CASE THAT WHEN A COMPREHENSIVE METHOD OF EVALUATION WAS APPLIED TO OBLIGATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY EACH SIDE, THE RESULTS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00380 151437Z

WOULD SHOW THAT, IN ITS PROPOSALS, THE WEST WAS OFFERING AS

MUCH AS IT WAS ASKING FROM THE EAST. WHEN SIMILAR CRITERIA WERE APPLIED TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THE EAST WAS ASKING THE WEST TO UNDERTAKE FAR MORE THAN THE EAST ITSELF WAS PREPARED TO DO. EASTERN REPS CLAIMED THAT THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECEMBER 16 WESTERN NUCLEAR ADD-ON WAS LESS THAN CLAIMED BY THE WEST, IN THAT NUCLEAR WARHEADS TO BE WITHDRAWN WERE OBSOLETE AND THE PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW US DELIVERY VEHICLES DID NOT EVEN COVER ALL AMERICAN LAUNCHERS IN THE AREA. EASTERN REPS STRESSED THE MERITS OF THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AND OF THE FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL. WESTERN REPS SHOWED THAT THE FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL DID NOT MOVE TOWARD THE WESTERN POSITION ON PHASING. EASTERN REPS AGAIN CLAIMED THE WESTERN APPROACH WAS IN VIOLATION OF DECISIONS MADE DURING THE PREPARATORY TALKS. WESTERN REPS REFUTED THESE STATEMENTS. EASTERN REPS DID NOT REPEAT NOT BRING UP THE DATA ISSUE OR ASK WESTERN REPS WHEN WEST WOULD BE TABLING ITS DATA.

3. FRG REP OPENED WITH POINT THAT THE EAST WAS FAILING TO ASSESS MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS IN THEIR ENTIRETY THROUGH USING A THOROUGH METHOD OF EVALUATION, AND WAS INSTEAD FOCUSING ON NUMERICAL COMPARISON, WHILE FAILING GIVE DUE WEIGHT TO SUCH FACTORS AS THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF LIMITATIONS AND GEOGRAPHY. POLISH REP SAID THE WESTERN DECEMBER 16 PROPOSAL TO REDUCE US NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAD EXPLICITLY BEEN MADE DEPENDENT ON EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE OVERALL WESTERN REDUCTION PROGRAM, BUT ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROGRAM WOULD RESULT IN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE TO THE WEST. HE WENT ON TO GENERAL CRITICISM OF WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH. POLISH REP GAVE GREATER EMPHASIS THAN USUAL TO EASTERN DEMAND THAT AIR FORCES BE REDUCED, REFERRING IN THIS CONTEXT TO USE OF THE AIR FORCE AS TACTICAL DELIVERY VEHICLE FOR CONVENTIONAL EXPLOSIVES. HE SAID US NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS ENVISAGED IN THE DECEMBER 16 PROPOSALS FAILED TO INCLUDE REDUCTION OF OTHER US NUCLEAR LAUNCHERS IN THE AREA. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE FIREPOWER OF US NUCLEAR WARHEADS IN EUROPE WOULD BE REDUCED THROUGH WHAT HE CLAIMED WAS US INTENTION TO WITHDRAW WARHEADS OF OBSOLETE DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

4. US REP POINTED OUT THAT POLISH REP HAD ONCE MORE DEMON-  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00380 151437Z

STRATED CHARACTERISTIC EASTERN FAILURE TO APPRECIATE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS INCLUDING THOSE PROPOSED BY THE WEST ON THE RESIDUAL LEVEL OF ALL US NUCLEAR WARHEADS IN THE REDUCTION AREA. US REP CONTINUED THAT, WHEN ONE APPLIED THE SAME THOROUGH METHOD OF EVALUATION OF THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OBLIGATIONS WHICH THE EAST HAD PROPOSED THE WEST UNDERTAKE, THE RESULTS MADE CLEAR THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSALS WOULD BOTH CONTRACTUALIZE

EXISTING EASTERN ADVANTAGES AND CONFER NEW UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES  
ON THE EAST AT THE EXPENSE OF WESTERN SECURITY.

5. GDR REP DEFENDED THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AS AN  
EFFECTIVE MEANS OF REDUCING CONFRONTATION OF MILITARY  
FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AND STATED THAT IT WAS IN CONFORMITY  
WITH PRINCIPLES AGREED IN PREPARATORY TALKS, WHEREAS WESTERN  
APPROACH DID NOT CONFORM. CANADIAN REP GAVE REASONS WHY  
EASTERN FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL DID NOT REPRESENT A MOVE TOWARDS  
THE WESTERN POSITION ON PHASING. FRG REP SET RECORD STRAIGHT AS  
REGARDS DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS.

6. KHLESTOV, IN LONG PRESENTATION, COMPLAINED THAT THE  
EAST WAS NOT USING SOLELY A NUMERICAL COMPARISON IN  
EVALUATING THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTERN REDUC-  
TION APPROACH, BUT THAT EFFORTS TO WORK OUT AGREED  
CRITERION TO EVALUATE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF OBLIGATIONS  
WOULD BE TIME CONSUMING AND DISTRACT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE  
CENTRAL TASK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE RETURNED TO THE ISSUE OF  
DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS, CLAIMING THAT THE  
WEST WAS DEPARTING FROM THESE DECISIONS.

END SUMMARY.

REMAINDER OF REPORT SENT VIA AIRGRAM. RESOR

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